US offer to lease two PC-3 Orion Aircrafts

2324 SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has offered to lease two PC-3 Orion reconnaissance aircrafts to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Navy has studied the lease offer to find out whether it meets their needs and is cost-effective;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) when a final decision by the Indian Navy is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The United States has indicated that two PC-3 Orion aircrafts could be made available on lease. However, no formal offer has been received from the United States in this regard. A decision in the matter can only be taken after a detailed offer is received from the US and the same is examined by NHQ/MoD.

Production of F-16 and F-18 Fighter Planes

2325. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to produce F-16 and F-18 Fighter Planes in the country; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Pending power projects proposal of Andhra Pradesh

2326 SHRI C RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any power project proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been pending with the Central Government approval for over a year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Central Government for expediting the projects?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, requirement of techno-economic clearance (TEC) for Thermal Power Projects has been dispensed with. Further no proposal for according TEC to any hydro electric project in Andhra Pradesh is pending for clearance in Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

MiG accidents

† 2327. DR. PRABHATHAKUR:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many MiG-21 aircrafts have met with accidents during the last three years;

(b) what were the causes of these accidents;

(c) whether any inquiry Committee was appointed to find out the various reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the last three years (from the Financial Year 2002-03 till 9.12.2005) a total number of twenty one MiG-21 aircraft of the Indian Air Force met with accidents.

(b) to (d) Each aircraft accident of the Indian Air Force is investigated by a Court of Inquiry (Col). Of the above 21 accident cases, the Col found that 11 accidents were due to Human Error, 8 accidents due to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.